

March 2016

# John Frank Stevens Correspondence

John Frank Stevens 1853-1943

Maine State Library

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STEVENS, John F.

West Gardiner, 1853-

Stevens, John F., civil engr.; b. W. Gardiner, Me., Apr. 25, 1853; s. John and Harriet S.; LL.D. from Bates College, Lewiston, Maine, 1922; m. Harriet T. O'Brien, of Dallas, Tex., Jan. 6, 1877. Assistant engineer City of Minneapolis, 1874-76; chief engineer Sabine Pass & North-Western Railway, 1876-79; assistant engineer D. & R.O.Ry., 1879-80; C., M. & St. P.Ry., 1880-82; div. engr. Canadian Pacific Ry., 1882-86; asst. engr. C., M. & St. P. Ry., 1886; prin. asst. engr. Duluth South Shore & Atlantic Ry., 1887-89; asst. engr. Spokane Falls & Northern Ry., 1889; prin. asst. engr., 1889-93; asst. chief engr., 1893-95, chief engr., 1895-1902, gen. mgr., 1902-03, G.N.Ry.; chief engr., 1903-04, 2d. v.p. 1904-05, C., R.I. & P. Ry. Co.; chief engr. Panama Canal, 1905-Apr. 1, 1907; chmn. Isthmian Canal Comm., Feb.-Mar. 1907; v.p. N.Y., N.H. & H.R.R., in charge operation, Aug. 1, 1907-09; pres. Spokane, Portland & Seattle Ry., Ore. Electric Ry., Oregon Trunk Ry., Pacific & Eastern Ry., 1909-11. Head of Am. Ry. Mission to Russia, 1917-18; pres. Inter-Allied Tech. Bd., supervising Siberian rys., 1919-23. Dir. B. & O. R.R. Co. Hon. mem. Am. Soc. C.E. (pres. 1927), N.C. Soc. of Engrs.; mem. Pacific Soc. Engrs., Chinese-Am. Assn. Engrs., Engineers Club of Phila. Awarded Fritz medal for "great achievements," 1925; gold medal, Franklin Inst. Address: Latrobe Apts., Baltimore, Md.

-- WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA, 1934-1935

December 19, 1928

John F. Stevens  
50 Church Street  
New York City

Dear Mr. Stevens:

On Saturday night, December 15th, I was down to your old home in West Gardiner. My visit came about through a combination of circumstances. First, the Grange had arranged for a special Stevens night. There was to be presented a portrait and a photograph of the monument commemorating your interesting night on the mountains at Marius Pass. Your old friend, Judge Spear, was to deliver the address. He was indisposed, so they had to look around for a substitute. I was elected. These circumstances explain my presence in West Gardiner, and explain why I am writing at this time.

I thought that probably you would like to know something about the celebration. So far as I could judge all the community was present. There were six or seven of the friends of your boyhood. I do not know when I have been present at so simple, beautiful and whole-hearted a celebration. Everyone was so enthusiastic and so keenly appreciative of the achievements of their engineer. It certainly would have warmed your heart if you could have listened to their conversation. I doubt very much if any of the honors you have received ( and they certainly have been many and distinguished), would have been more appreciated than the tribute of these people in your old home town. It was so genuine that I could not help

Mr. Stevens .... 2

feeling that in some way all their tributes of love, respect and admiration must find their way across all the miles to you.

I told them some of the more important events of your life. Of course I stumbled a bit on your school teaching days, because I did not have very much information. I could not find very much about your surveying work in Lewiston and not much more about your sojourn in Minneapolis. However, the other spots are so very high that no one could miss them. At the end of my little talk I said "The story of John Frank Stevens tells you four things".

1. The inspiring power of a great motive.
2. The necessity of unyielding courage.
3. The absolute need of education.
4. That if you are shut out of college, technical schools, through books you may acquire knowledge for the highest tasks and most difficult achievements.

I wonder how near I came to the truth.

It was good to talk to Eben Horn, who certainly is an enthusiastic admirer, and there were several others just like him, -- everyone of them on tip toe to tell me some interesting incident.

Well, I have written all these things thinking it might be interesting for you to have some word from these old friends of other days.

Very truly yours,

February 4, 1929

John F. Stevens  
50 Church Street  
New York City

Dear Mr. Stevens:

We are sending you many thanks for your courtesy in furnishing us with biographical material. This is invaluable for our files.

The death of your friend Judge Spear is a very great shock. He has spent many, many hours in my office during which we have discussed everything in the universe, not excepting farming and fishing -- especially the latter. One of the very great fish stories connected with Maine is in my files as the result of our conversation. A few days before he died I was talking with him; I am sure he never looked better, and he told me he never felt better. His death came very suddenly. Judge Spear was a good citizen, a careful scholar, a great friend, and a Christian.

Should you come to Maine this year I hope I may have you for a dinner guest. At least, linger for a little bit in my office.

Very truly yours,

HED:ME

New York N.Y.  
50 Church St.

Feby 1/29

Mr Henry E. Dunnack  
State Librarian

Augusta Me

Dear Mr Dunnack-

Referring to your letter of Dec 19- in which you ask for some biographical data concerning myself: I am mailing under another cover some matter which may interest you and perhaps find a place in your files.

I have just recd the sad news of the passing of Judge Spear. I am deeply grieved - as I & I were friends for 64 years. Well so goes the world - a long and a full life is God's chiefest blessing.

Very Sincerely Yours.

John E. Stevens

Dear Mr. Drummack-

New York  
Dec 27/25

Your letter of 19 Dec was recd, and I quite fail to be able to express my thanks for your thoughtfulness. I have written a few lines to the frange - to our people - feebly voicing my appreciation of what they did for me. I hope at some time in the not distant future to be able to see & greet them all.

I will try & send you some data as you suggest for I would consider it an honor to have my name preserved in the files of the Maine State Library.

Very sincerely yours

John F. Stevens

Mr Henry E Drummack  
Augusta  
Me



Oct 11/24

Dear Mr. Dummak,

I was thinking of the  
West Garden school house.

If you can do so - that is -  
get the name of the Agent -  
I think he is called and  
the number of that school  
District - I think it would  
be better for me to commu-  
nicate with the Agent  
directly in the matter of sending  
~~some~~ some little thing to the  
school - rather than to the  
Local Superintendent.

I will be in New York  
in a couple of days.

With regards

Sincerely,

John F. Stevens

October 11, 1929.

Mr. John F. Stevens,  
50 Church St.,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Stevens:

The superintendent of the schools of West Gardiner is Cyrus M. Kendrick, Litchfield, Maine. He has three or four towns in his district. The teacher of the John F. Stevens School is Miss Irene Libby, Litchfield, Maine, R. F. D. # 3.

It means a great deal to those of us who are situated in the far East to have the privilege of meeting a man who has just come from the center of things. We are grateful beyond words for your gift of the statue, and I assure you it will be one of our invaluable possessions.

Very truly yours,

Maine State Library

PD/S

October 12, 1929.

Mr. John F. Stevens,  
50 Church St.,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Stevnes:

We received your note this morning and note what you say about the local school agent.

My first letter gave you the name of the superintendent: but from your letter I think the person you want is Mrs. Arthur N. Gosline, Route 7, Gardiner, Maine. Mrs. Gosline is the chairman of the school committee for West Gardiner. But to make positively sure I have called Mrs. Gosline and find that she has charge of the John F. Stevens School.

Very truly yours,

Maine State Library

HD/S

New York  
Oct 16/29

Dear Mr Drumack -

I have today shipped  
you - via Am Ry Express - prepaid - the  
statuette. I trust that it will reach  
you safely & will not too greatly  
disfigure the library.

Cordially Yours.

John F. Stevens

Henry E Drumack  
State Librarian  
Augusta Me

50 Church St

New York

Oct 24/29

Dear Mr. Dimmick-

I am wondering if  
the statuette which I shipped to you  
on the 16<sup>th</sup> reached you. If it has not -  
I will have the Express Co send out a  
tracer immediately.

Truly yrs.

John A. Stevens

Mr. Henry E. Dimmick

State Librarian

Augusta Me

October 25, 1929.

Mr. John F. Stevens,  
50 Church St.,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Stevens:

The statuette arrived in perfect condition, and we have placed it on the right of the door as one enters the library. We have also placed a card with information in regard to the person whom the statuette represents. The statuette is attracting a great deal of attention and many interesting and enthusiastic comments.

I understand you are moving shortly to Baltimore I should like very much to have your new address.

Very truly yours,

FD/S

C O P Y

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November 5, 1939

Mr. John. F. Stevens  
Wyman Park Apartments  
Baltimore , Maryland.

My dear Mr. Stevens;-

I am writing for our  
Library Bulletin a note on the copy of your statue which  
you have recently sent the Maine State Library, and I find that we  
do not know the name of the person who made it. This is, of course,  
relatively unimportant, but we wish to have all available information  
about this very important addition to the library's treasures. Will  
you please tell us the name of the person who made out copy ? I hope  
that some day I may have the pleasure of seeing the original.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY MCF

(SIGNED MCF)

JOHN F. STEVENS  
WYMAN PARK APARTMENTS  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Denver Colo

Nov 19/29

Dear Mr Dummak

I am wondering, if you have in the library a copy of - "The blazed trail of the old Frontier" - by Agnes C Lank.

If not I will be glad to send it to you on my return to the east in a few days - I know that you will find in it things of interest, especially in the last chapters.

I have been to San Francisco & expect to be in Baltimore about Nov 25<sup>th</sup> and the above address will find me.

With warm regards -

Sincerely Yours

John F. Stevens

Mr Henry E Dummak  
State Librarian  
Augusta Me



COPY

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November 27, 1929.

Mr. John F. Stevens,  
Wyman Apartments,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Stevens:

I regret that we do not have a copy of  
"The Blazed Trail of the Old Frontier" in the library.  
We shall be very glad to receive a copy.

We are sending you a copy of the last  
Library Bulletin, which may be of some interest to you.

Very truly yours,

Maine State Library

HD/S

JOHN F. STEVENS  
WYMAN PARK APARTMENTS  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Nov 30/24

Dear Mr. Dummach

I have ordered a copy of  
"The Blazed Trail of the Old Frontier"  
from Robert W. McBride & Co - 7 W 16<sup>th</sup>  
St New York - sent to you & hope that  
it will reach you promptly.

Truly Yr

John F. Stevens

Henry E Dummach

Augusta

Me

JOHN F. STEVENS  
WYMAN PARK APARTMENTS  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>/29

Marion Cobb Fuller  
Maine State Library  
Augusta Me

Dear Miss Fuller

Your letter of Nov 5 - in  
re the Statuette, It was made by  
Gaetano Cecere - Italian Sculptor of  
New York City.

My reply has been delayed in  
obtaining to information

Cecere is pronounced - Che Keree,

Very Sincerely Yours.

John F. Stevens

C O P Y

HENRY E. DUNNACK  
STATE LIBRARIAN  
THERESA C. STUART  
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN



MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
AUGUSTA

December 10, 1929

Mr. John F. Stevens,  
Wyman Park Apartments,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Stevens:-

Thank you for your letter about the statuette.

I knew that the original statue was made by Mr. Cecere(I am so glad that you mentioned the correct way to pronounce his name')it is very interesting to know that he made the statuette, also.

I have read with much interest"The blazed trail of the old frontier."

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY MCF

December 19, 1929.

Mr. John F. Stevens,  
Wyman Park Apartments,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Stevens:

We have received the "Blazed Trail of the Old Frontier". It is quite a wonderful book, but of course the chapter dealing with the discovery of Maria's Pass was the one that we read with the greatest interest. One paragraph arrested my attention. I cannot but quote:

"Great engineers, like great architects, and great artists, and great poets, and great musicians, must have the gift of imagination. No enterprise of first magnitude was ever projected without some forward-looking mind visualizing the objective. What a stupid world this would be without imagination! It is a gift, like a marvellous power conferred by a benevolent fairy upon the handsome prince. It is a magic wand that solves difficulties and opens up vistas and pathways".

In fact the whole chapter from my way of thinking is well written, and tells the story of John F. Stevens in a fashion that leaves a memory that cannot be erased from the mind.

I do not remember whether I thanked you for the Panama Canal pamphlet or not. We greatly appreciate your courtesy in sending us the official document. It contains the information we have been looking for for some time. Personally I have never quite understood the situation at the canal and your part in it in relation to General Gorgas. We are placing this in our Maine Author Collection where Maine students will be able to consult it.

Very truly yours,

Maine State Library

FD/S

July 29, 1930

Dr. John F. Stevens  
Wyman Apartments  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Doctor Stevens:

I have just read your "Momentous Hour at Panama" given on the occasion of your receiving the Franklin medal. It seemed to me to be particularly fitting and proper that on that occasion when all the high officials who participated in the building of the canal had passed away but yourself that the facts should be stated in such a fashion that no doubt should be left in the minds of any as to what actually occurred during those early years in connection with this great project.

I congratulate you most heartily on receiving this deserved recognition and honor. We have only one regret at the Maine State Library, that before publishing the little article in connection with the statue at Marias Pass we could not have had this additional information. However, a note will be made in the forthcoming issue of the Library bulletin.

We are very grateful for the pamphlet taken from the Franklin Journal containing your address on that occasion.

Very truly yours,

HD/h

State Librarian

JOHN F. STEVENS  
WYMAN PARK APARTMENTS  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

August 2/30

Dear Mr Denmark

Thanks for your letter of  
July 29. It may interest you to know  
that the United States Geographic Board -  
(established by Act of Congress) in 1929  
officially named the Canyon of the  
Flathead River, extending some 30 miles  
West from Marias Pass - "The John  
& Stevens Canon" - this being of course  
on the West slope of the Rocky Mts.

My hearty regards.

Sincerely

Henry E Denmark  
State Librarian

Augusta, Ind

John F. Stevens

# John Frank Stevens, Native Of West Gardiner, Makes Personal Gift at Augusta

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OCT 29 1929

AUGUSTA.—John Frank Stevens, a famous son of West Gardiner, came back to Maine the other day, called on State Librarian H. E. Dunnaek and presented to the Library a bronze copy in miniature of the heroic statue of himself, by Cecere, which stands in a Rocky Mountain defile, marking the site of the exploit that first brought him fame.

## Statuette



Bronze statuette, replica of statue in Rocky Mountain Defile, presented to state by John Frank Stevens.

John Frank Stevens, equipped with only the education afforded by common schools of West Gardiner, began his preparation for the engineer's profession as a stake driven on a lot-surveying job in Lewiston. To him has come the highest honor that can be conferred by the four National engineering societies—the John Fritz medal, an honor which he shares with such men as Alexander Graham Bell, Orville Wright, Marconi, and Westinghouse.

It was Stevens who made the successful beginning of the construction of the Panama Canal, undertaking in 1905 the task in which the French had failed, solving the perplexing problems presented by Culebra Cut, and carrying on as engineer in charge until 1907, when the work, its success assured, was transferred from the civil to the military department. Five nations decorated him for his services as head of the American Railway Mission to Russia throughout and after the war.

After an apprenticeship in the humbler tasks of construction Stevens became an assistant engineer on the Rio Grande's extension in Colorado and New Mexico, later he was location engineer for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, and joined the Canadian Pacific in 1882, distinguishing himself by the completion of 1000 miles of railroad in one short Summer. Often at night, after a day of exhausting toil, he drove from 20 to 30 miles in a buckboard over the prairie, seeking the most desirable location for the road.

It was in 1889 that his services were obtained by John J. Hill whose Great Northern line had still the Rockies' forbidding barrier to cross.

An Indian legend told of a pass through the mountain wall, and Stevens' observations of the land and of the water courses strengthened his belief that there was a way through. Stevens sought the help of the Indians, but the legend that told of the existence of a pass told also of its inhabitation by an evil spirit, and they feared to aid him; all but one Kálispell redskin, driven from his tribe for murder, who for a day and a half served as his guide and then quit the task because of the perils which Stevens willingly endured. After scaling slippery slopes, trudging through snow that in places was five feet deep, and clambering over fallen timbers Stevens, he at last came upon the opening that was to let the railroad through the famous Marias pass where now his statue stands.

Mr. Stevens lives in New York City. The schoolhouse in West Gardiner which stands on the site of the one he attended, has been given his name.



## How Stevens Found the Pass

Jul 16 1927

For the study of the terminal problems of the Boston & Maine, now happily in the way of solution, there came to Boston in an advisory capacity not only the present president of the system, Mr. Hannauer, but the famous engineer whose name probably is best known to the nation in connection with his work in the construction of the Panama canal. One story about Mr. John F. Stevens which ought to be better known is that of his discovery of the splendid pass through the Rocky mountains which gave the Great Northern railroad its chief advantage as a trans-continental route. The story is narrated in the current issue of the Stone & Webster Journal.

The existence of the pass was suspected long before its discovery in behalf of James J. Hill. It seems that an Isaac I. Stevens, apparently not connected with the family of the Panama engineer, in the fifties made extensive explorations for feasible railway locations for passage by north, south and intermediate routes to the Pacific. In September, 1853, he obtained from an Indian chief "a very particular description of the Marias Pass we were in search of." The Indians had used it, but for some superstitious reason had abandoned the route. Stevens intimated that it ought to be a valuable route for a railroad. But the civil war filled men's minds with other thoughts, and not until 36 years later was the pass actually discovered and made known to the world.

John F. Stevens explored the mountains with minute thoroughness. He said: "I know those mountains well enough to make a model of them." His exploration kept him in the mountains long after the coming of winter. Only a half-breed who was a fugitive for killing a man would go along with the engineer. He had taken sanctuary with the Blackfeet and this tribe occupied territory which Stevens would traverse. Stevens duly found the pass. He knew it must be the best location through the mountains, better than those to the south which for 80 years had been the preferred routes. It shortened the projected line of the Great Northern by 100 miles, its summit above sea level was only 5200 feet, and it provided without a tunnel a grade westbound of only 1 per cent., and eastbound of less than 2 per cent.

Stevens fared along with his companion afoot and with packs on their backs. Five miles from the top of the pass the Indian became exhausted. Stevens cleared the two feet of snow from a patch of ground and left his aide there with a fire. He pushed on alone, going far enough through the pass and down from the summit to prove that he had not been deceived "by a side canyon leading by a hidden turn back to the eastern slope."

That was the night of Dec. 11, 1889. There at the summit the lone engineer fought for his life amidst a temperature of 40 degrees below zero. He dared not sleep. Only by incessant tramping back and forth did he keep from freezing. Probably it was the splendid fibre which had been bred in Maine that enabled him to survive. On his return to his companion he found the Indian almost frozen and the fire out. He took him to a settlement in the foothills and then proceeded to Helena to make his own report of the discovery of the pass which "made" "Jim" Hill and his railroad.

At the summit of this Marias pass through the Rockies there now stands a bronze statue of heroic size, of John F. Stevens, in commemoration of the discovery of that northern gateway to the Pacific.

Letrobe Apartments-  
Baltimore Md.

Sept 5/35

( Dear Dr. Dumack-

Harding back to your letter  
of Dec. 19/34; I am slow, I know, but give  
me lots of time and I generally get some-  
where.

All of which means that I will mail  
you tomorrow - "Deo Volente" - a very recent  
photo of myself, as you requested for  
the Library. It was taken within a  
week, and as Ralph Waldo Emerson said  
under similar circumstances - "if it  
does not look like me, it is the face  
that I shave every morning".

( I was in Lewiston a short time  
since, but was called unexpectedly  
to New York to attend an important  
Board meeting and so was unable  
to get to Augusta - I hope to later.

( I trust that you and yours are  
well and happy. So I am, very  
much so.

My best to you and to all friends

( Sincerely

John L. Stevens

Latrobe Hpts

Baltimore Sept 6/35 795

(Dear Mr Dummack-

I am disappointed in not being able to send you the photo today as I promised. The picture did not suit me & I have to try again.

I hope to be able to fulfill the promise in a few days - I assume that the library will not suffer meanwhile

Sincerely

John E. Stevens

September 9, 1935

Mr. John F. Stevens  
Latrobe Apartments  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Stevens:

Returning to my office this morning after an absence of three months, I find your two letters in regard to the photograph. I have been ill and I am just recovering.

Of course I am disappointed about the photographs, because we are very anxious to have one in the library. However, I am not worried about the matter because I know you will send it.

I hope before the winter sets in you will come this way and spend some time with me.

Very truly yours

State Librarian

HED/m

Latrobe Apts  
Baltimore Ind

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Seph 17/35

Dear Mr Dunnack -

I am truly sorry to hear of your illness, and hope to hear of your complete recovery. Health is all in all.

I have today shipped you via Railway Express, prepaid - the long delayed photo. It is not beautiful but has the merit of being a faithful likeness of the 'Old Timer' - at the present date.

Please give George Otis Smith my respects when next you see him, I have not met him in some years.

My best to you - with the hope that your health is again fine.

Sincerely

John L. Stevens

September 20, 1935

John F. Stevens  
Latrobe Apts.  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Stevens:

The framed photograph arrived this morning. Please accept our thanks for this valuable gift, which we appreciate more than we can tell you.

The usual fall weather has arrived in Maine - beautiful sunshine, cool just to the point of being comfortable, the leaves turning to purple and gold, - indeed Maine is putting on the most attractive gown of all the year, and is ready for visitors. I hope you will hear her calling, and make an answer by coming this way.

Very truly yours

HED/m

State Librarian

Dean Arland D. Weeks, School of Education, N.D. State College:

"Montana: The Geological Story", by Daniel E. Willard, formerly Professor of Geology, is the third in a series of geological works of popular appeal by this author. "The Story of the Prairies", (north Dakota), and "The Story of Minnesota" (the North Star State), preceded the present volume.

In an unobtrusive way Mr. Willard has done a monumental work in his trilogy, providing the lay reader with an account of the workings of geological forces in these states, with graphic portrayals of the present scene. The scientist and the layman will evidently value the new work for its comprehensiveness and factuality, while as an interpretation of the earth beneath their feet and the landscape stretching away before their eyes, the trilogy should be available to children in the three states whether such attend as pupils in a city school building or in a one-room structure in the open.

In his writings the author reveals himself as one to whom there are sermons in stones, books in the running brooks, and lyrics in buttes, benches, floodplains, volcanic ash, and anticlines; he also shows a warmly human tendency in his phrasing of geology in terms of vital relations. Thus a huge red boulder on a level plain is a "foreigner"; ice "retreats"; there is the "behavior" of streams; the earth is "the land we walk on"; geology is taken by "excursions" or "from a car window". Mr. Willard meets the lay mind more than half way, achieving a kind of scientific writing which sets forth materials with simplicity and spirit. For sheer information, and as a means of learning how to observe the earth's surface this volume on Montana is strongly commended.

(Signed) Arland D. Weeks  
Dean of Education.

"The Story of the Prairies"	\$2.50
"The Story of the North Star State"	2.50
"Montana: The Geological Story"	2.50

Published and for sale by the author, Railway Building,  
St. Paul, Minn. (Three books to one address \$6.00.)

Feb. 6, 1936

Maine State Library  
Henry Dunnack, Librarian:

This book is sent you by direction and order  
of Col. John F. Stevens, Latrobe Apts., Baltimore, Md.

D. E. Willard  
Author and Publisher

February 10, 1936

Col. John F. Stevens  
Latrobe Apartments  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Stevens:

We have received the complimentary copy of  
MONTANA, THE GEOLOGICAL STORY, by Willard.

Please accept our appreciation and most  
sincere thanks for this gift. We are placing  
it in the library at once, where it will un-  
doubtedly afford patrons much valuable information.

Very truly yours

hm

State Librarian



JOHN F. STEVENS  
LATROBE APARTMENTS  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

May 6/36

Mr Henry E. Drumack-  
State Librarian

Augusta Me.

My dear Mr Drumack-

I have two volumes, "Expedition to the Missouri" - as a matter of fact, they are the diary in detail of Lewis & Clark's expedition to the Pacific in 1804.

These volumes are unique - in several ways: They contain a foreward by Thomas Jefferson - then President of the United States - which covers a sketch of the life of Meriwether Lewis, and also a copy of President Jefferson's instructions to Lewis on the eve of the departure of the expedition into the unknown wilderness.

They are in detail - an exact copy of the diary of the movements and events of the expedition - as written from day to day by Capt Lewis et al.

The volumes were prepared by Paul Allen Egg of Philadelphia and were printed by J Christie in Dublin Ire. in 1817 - 119 years ago. Why they were printed in Dublin I do not know.

They are bound in what I take to be half calf and are in every respect in as good condition as when they were made.

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It is of course possible that many of these volumes are in existence in the United States, but I do not think so. I found them 35 years ago in a second hand book store & acquired them then at a cost of \$25:-

Now as the time cannot be far ahead when I must leave my small belongings - I want to place these volumes where they will be assured of continuous care as long as humanly possible, and I know of no better place than the official library of my dear old State. So if you approve - I will arrange at once to ship them to you. Please advise.

Some time ago I ordered the publisher to send you a copy of "An Engineer's Recollections" - a small booklet which I wrote last year. I am wondering if they did so & if you got it.

I am just back from a two months trip to the Canal Zone & California.

With my respects -

Sincerely

John V. Stevens

May 8, 1936

John F. Stevens  
Latrobe Apartments  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Stevens:

We received AN ENGINEER'S RECOLLECTIONS, and I read every word of it with great pleasure and a great deal of profit. If you come to Maine this summer, I wish you might come in and autograph this copy. We have placed it in our special Maine Author Collection.

The detailed diary of the Lewis and Clarke Expedition to the Pacific in 1804 will be a valuable addition to the historical section of our library. You may be sure it will be well cared for.

We appreciate your interest in the State — I rather think I ought to say your love for the old State, and the way it is finding expression. Please accept our thanks for all the favors you are extending to us.

Very truly yours

HED.m

State Librarian

JOHN F. STEVENS  
LATROBE APARTMENTS  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

May 11/36

Dr Henry E. Dummack  
Augusta Me

Dear Dr Dummack - Thanks for your letter of May 8<sup>th</sup>. I am glad the "An Engineers Recollections" pleased <sup>you</sup>. The writing of them filled in some otherwise idle hours of one who is now relegated to the side lines.

I have sent you today via R.R. Express prepaid the 2 vols. of Lewis & Clark Expedition. I placed merely a nominal value upon them in shipping.

It is a little too early for me to know if I will get to Maine this coming summer. I hope to & if I am so fortunate, I will come to Augusta.

My respects to you

Sincerely

John F. Stevens

It is now John 4<sup>th</sup>  
for I have a great grandson.

May 13, 1936

John F. Stevens  
Latrobe Apartments  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Stevens:

The two volumes of Lewis and Clakre's Expedition to the Missouri reached the library this morning, in perfect condition.

We are greatly pleased with your gift and we are cataloging it at once, and placing it in our special collection of rare books, not to be loaned.

The life of Lewis by Thomas Jefferson makes this set of unusual value. We are making especial notes on this biographical sketch in our catalog so that it will be easily found.

May we thank you again for your generosity and interest in the library and State,

Very truly yours

HED.m

State Librarian

JOHN F. STEVENS  
LATROBE APARTMENTS  
BALTIMORE, MD.

August 17/36

Dear Mr Denmark -

I mailed you this morning a photo of a section of the panel depicting the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, his activities in the matter of the Panama Canal. Also a booklet describing all of the murals.

I enjoyed much with you again and expect to have that pleasure in the future.

My warm regards,

John F. Stevens

Dr Henry Denmark

Augusta

Me

August 20, 1936 .

Colonel John F. Stevens  
Latrobe Apartments  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Stevens:

The photograph of a section of the panel in the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, in relation to the Panama Canal, has been received.

We appreciate your interest in securing this valuable contribution for the Maine State Library. We are glad to have this, not only because it is a fine art exhibit, but also because of the association of the distinguished son of Maine with one of our great presidents.

It was a great pleasure to have you visit the library and spend a few hours with us. I hope the next time you come, you will plan to spend more time at the State Library.

Very truly yours

HED.m

State Librarian

JOHN F. STEVENS  
LATROBE APARTMENTS  
BALTIMORE, MD.

Sept 17/36

Dear Dr. Dumack-

Under another cover I  
have mailed a copy of the Dedicatory  
Exercises of the Theodore Roosevelt  
Memorial which occurred last  
January. I presume that the  
Library has copies, but I would  
like one there that I con-  
tributed.

Best ever

John F. Stevens



Sept. 23, 1936

John F. Stevens  
Latrobe Apartments  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Stevens:

The New York State Theodore Roosevelt Memorial dedicatory exercises have been received. Once more you have placed us under obligation. We greatly appreciate this last gift, not only on account of its value as a document, but also because you have presented it to the library.

Very truly yours

HED.m

State Librarian

JOHN F. STEVENS  
LATROBE APARTMENTS  
BALTIMORE, MD.

Oct: 6/36

Dear Dr. Dennack-

Please note that after  
November 1<sup>st</sup>/36 - my address  
will be - Southern Pines - N.C.  
as I am moving to that place  
on that date -

Sincerely Yrs

John F. Stevens

JOHN F. STEVENS  
SOUTHERN PINES  
N. C.

Jan 23/37

Dear Mr Drummack-

I caused to be sent to you for the Library -

Two Vols- "The Story of the Baltimore and Ohio R.R."

I presume that you may have a copy already but I would like one in the Library accredited to me.

The last Vol contains a vast amount of deeply interesting history of events of the Civil war along the Potomac River & elsewhere in Virginia & W Virginia - in fact in many places.

Information that can not be found elsewhere, at least in a single Volume.

I am & have been a director in the road for 14 years.

I trust that you are comfortable & as happy as we mortals can be -

Henry E Drummack

Augusta  
Me

Sincerely yours

John F Stevens

January 26, 1937.

John F. Stevens  
Southern Pines  
North Carolina

Dear Mr. Stevens:

We have received the two volumes, STORY OF THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD. It happens we do not have these volumes in the library; therefore they are of value and interest to us, first, because they are a decided addition to our historical section, and second, because they are a gift from John F. Stevens. Please accept our thanks for your generous contribution.

We are having a very remarkable winter. I guess from what we get in the newspapers and over the radio, that every state is having a remarkable winter. Here we are, the last of January, and we have had spring weather continuously since the first of the year. Today is about forty degrees above zero. It has snowed very very little, and it usually turns to rain.

I hope you are enjoying your stay in Southern Pines. It must be a rather delightful place in the wintertime.

All the staff joins me in sending New Year greetings and best wishes.

Very truly yours

HED.m

State Librarian

JOHN F. STEVENS  
SOUTHERN PINES  
N. C.

Feb 5/37

Dear Dr. Dummack:

Under separate cover, I am sending with my compliments - parcel post - a copy of "The Blazed Trail of the Old Frontier", by Agnes Lant, (who passed away some few months ago.)

The recital covers the running of a special train with about 1,000 guests from Chicago to Glacier Park - where my statue stands.

You will find considerable about me in the last Chapter

Henry E. Dummack  
State Librarian

Augusta Me

cordially yours  
John F. Stevens

February 12, 1937

John F. Stevens  
Southern Pines  
North Carolina

Dear Mr. Stevens:

I was delighted to receive your letter of February 8, and this morning THE BLAZED TRAIL OF THE OLD FRONTIER has arrived.

Once more you have placed us under a very great obligation by the presentation to the library of this valuable book. Part five, dealing with your discovery of Maria's Pass, is certainly a great addition to our archives.

I notice that you have sent us a volume presented to the Southern Pines Library, and I presume they have received the Maine State Library copy. As soon as I hear from you, I will send our copy to the Southern Pines Library, or to you, as you may direct.

Our winter continues open. Here we are celebrating Lincoln's birthday, and there is really no indication of winter in Maine; rather, it is such a day as one might expect the first of April, and indeed the entire winter has been about what it is today.

I hope you are enjoying Southern Pines.

Very truly yours

HED.m

State Librarian

JOHN F. STEVENS  
SOUTHERN PINES  
N. C.

Feby 15/37

Dear Dr. Dumack -

your letter of 12<sup>th</sup>  
re marking of copy of "The Blazed  
Trail of the Old Frontier:

I find the both copies of the  
book were marked for Southern  
Pines Library - a most stupid  
blunder, due probably to a  
temporary(?) aberration of my  
massive brain.

I enclose herewith a slip  
with correct main marking, which  
please have pasted over the  
present incorrect one.

I am glad that you like the  
book - the historical references  
are true, Agnes Lusk - the authoress  
who was a member of our party  
on the special train, passed away  
last year.

My warm regards

John F. Stevens





JOHN F. STEVENS  
SOUTHERN PINES  
N. C.

July 11/39

Dear Librarian -

Dr Duhamel was a very great friend of mine. Tho in the Library has a number of mementos of ~~me~~ me.

I was born in West Gardiner in 1853. I am sending you a copy of Brochure of the ceremony incident of the 1939 - 3rd presentation of the Hoover Medal.

My hand is crippled by Arthritis which I trust will excuse my poor penmanship.

Very Sincerely

John F. Stevens

July 20, 1939

Mr. John F. Stevens  
Southern Pines  
North Carolina

Dear Mr. Stevens:

Please accept our thanks for your kindness in remembering the Maine Author Collection with a copy of the Hoover Medal address, and also our congratulations upon the richly merited distinction.

Such honors reflect, we like to think, a little upon the State of Maine; and we are proud that we may claim you as a son.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

SECRETARY

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